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HERTFORD COUNTY, N. C. COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

ABSTRACT

TITLE: Community Facilities Plan and Public Improvements Program for Hertford County, North Carolina

AUTHOR: State of North Carolina, Department of Local Affairs, Division of Community Planning

SUBJECT: The Public Health, Safety and General Welfare; The Physical Plant; Water, Sewer and Waste Services; Social and Cultural; and Public Improvements Program

DATE: March 1970

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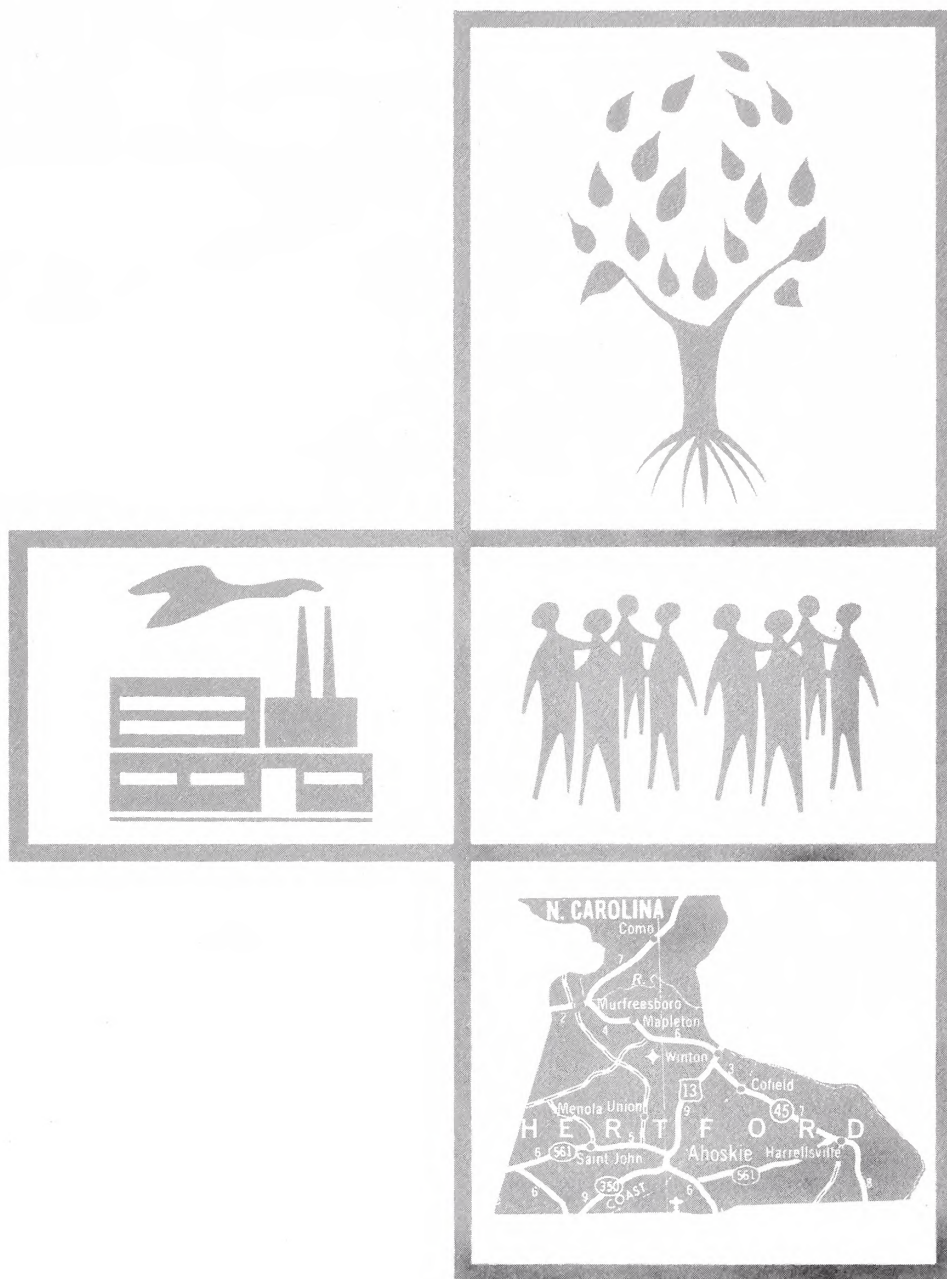
Hertford County, Winton, North Carolina

HUD PROJECT NUMBER: NCP-61

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ABSTRACT: Based on personal interviews with local officials and others, existing facilities and services of county government are analyzed and evaluated in the light of trends and probable future demands. Recommendations are made as to sites, facilities and services to meet anticipated demands. The Public Improvements Program recommends order of priority and timing for capital improvements listed as needed in the Community Facilities Plan.



HERTFORD COUNTY, N.C.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The preparation of this report was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the provision of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

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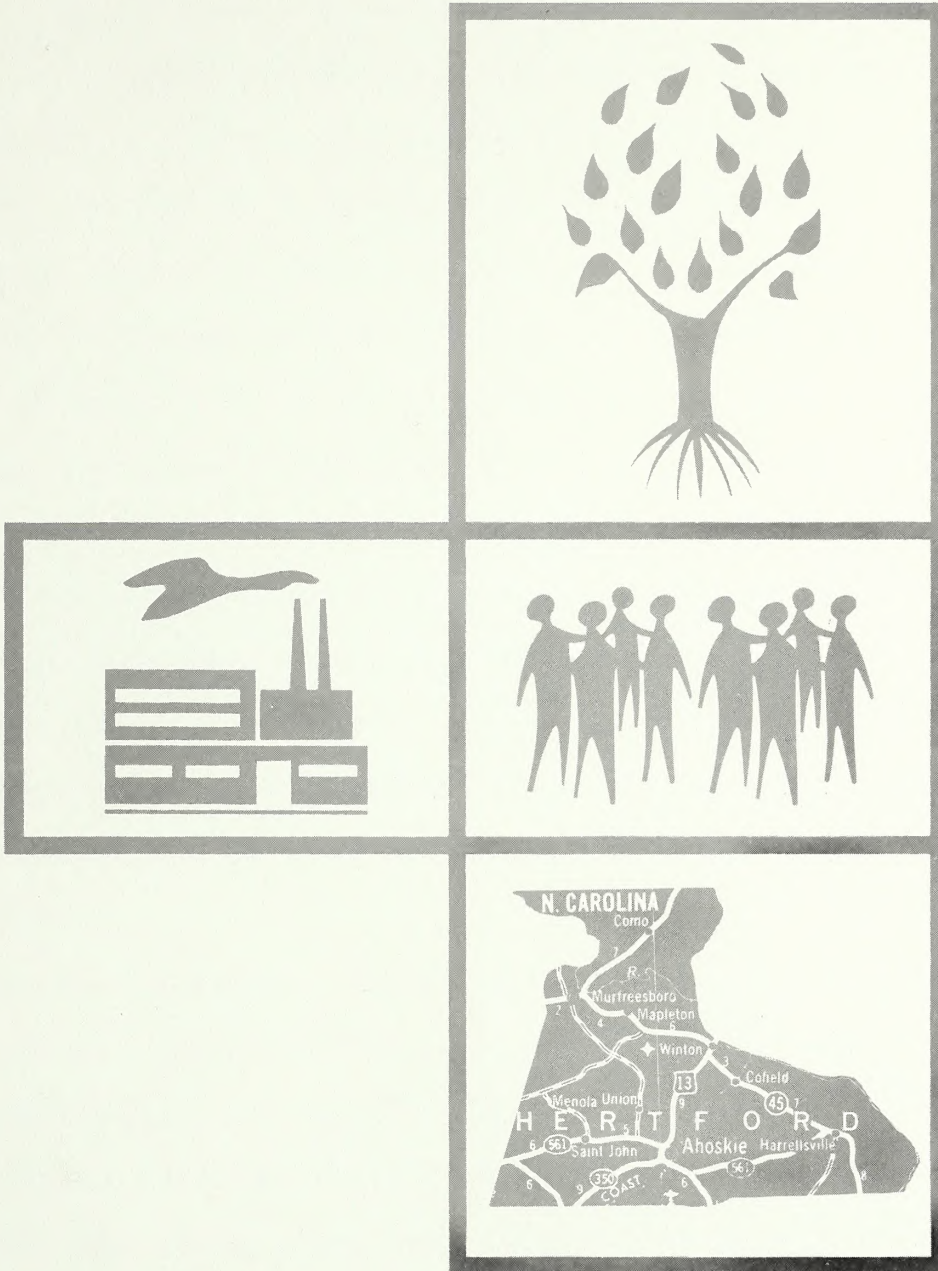
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COMMUNITY FACILITIES PLAN

also change to meet its responsibilities. This will mean the expansion of existing services and the provision of new services along with accompanied demands for facilities and personnel. It is the purpose of this report to help the county government prepare to meet these growing needs.

The objectives of this study can be summarized in the following.

1. To provide basic information on the existing public facilities in Hertford County in such a manner as to be used by the citizens, the governing officials, and all interested parties.

2. To contribute to an over-all awareness of the condition of public facilities and services so that all may be informed.

3. To recommend needed public improvements through a systematic plan for development.

4. To point to needs of the future with emphasis on the coordination of county and municipal facilities and for multi-county or regional cooperation.

This report is based upon other studies of the land, population, and economy of Hertford County as shown in reports published by the County and by the towns of Ahoskie and Murfreesboro. It is tied to the Land Development Plan of Hertford County. Attempts have been made to interview all government officials and a general public cross section in the preparation of this report.

PART 1

THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE

FIRE PROTECTION

At the present time, Hertford County has seven fire departments, all of which respond to rural calls, except the Town of Ahoskie's department. There are two fire departments in Ahoskie; one is a rural fire department. The other departments are located in Harrellsville, Millenium, St. Johns and Winton. All fire departments making rural calls receive a monthly stipend from the county.

Only two of the seven departments, Millennium and St. Johns, are not located inside incorporated towns. The Town of Ahoskie has already been advised in previous reports to make a clear distinction between the municipal and the rural fire departments. As the county's population increases, it is safe to assume that there will be similar pressures in Murfreesboro and Winton. It is also to be expected that the newly incorporated towns of the county, Como and Cofield, will begin some type of fire department.

All but one of the existing fire departments are well equipped with men and apparatus according to standards for rural fire protection. This is due to the several towns, the efforts of volunteers and donations. The one exception is Ahoskie's rural fire department which does not have a building to store equipment and does not have independent organizational status.

At the present time, the major deficiencies in fire protection in Hertford County are as follows.

1. Many areas of the county are located too far away from a fire department to receive adequate protection.

2. Because many of the towns are small in size and limited in funds, they cannot afford an independent municipal fire department and must serve a dual purpose affording municipal and rural fire protection. This has the advantage of bringing monthly county payments to the municipal fire department but has a disadvantage in terms of the municipal insurance rating. The most unfortunate aspect of this dualism is the lack of a clear coordinated policy between the municipality and the county and between the local fire department and other fire departments, municipal and rural, in the county.

3. Because no clearer lines of responsibility have been established and no districts have been formed outside the municipalities, the citizens of the county have been deprived of the benefits of reduced insurance rates.

4. All fire departments in the county are dependent upon volunteers. Only the Town of Ahoskie has full-time paid firemen. Although each fire department has several well trained men, there is no coordinated training program for the county.

Recommendations

1. The first priority should be to set up a county-wide fire protection system, encompassing municipal and rural fire departments, setting forth clear lines of responsibility and a program for cooperation and coordination. Such a program would include the following:

a. Provide appropriate contracts with municipalities for coverage of specified rural areas and for the support of other departments in the county on a mutual aid basis.

b. Have rural departments designate specific coverage areas in keeping with guidelines of the North Carolina Insurance Department and North Carolina Fire Insurance Rating Bureau.

c. Institute a coverage system to provide protection for the areas of the county outside the specified districts established by the existing fire departments. Such a program could be organized utilizing the existing fire departments, with coordinated back up of other departments. This system will also encourage the creation of new fire departments within the county to give more direct coverage.

d. Provide certain minimum standards for fire departments regarding equipment, personnel, and training. Provide procedure for periodic examinations and evaluation of fire departments within the county system.

ties should be combined into a single protection and safety agency. See page 25 of this report for a proposed County Public Safety Authority.

in contact with each phone in the county, and each fire department in contact with each other department. The next step would be for the installation of a radio in each fire department and on each major piece of fire equipment, so that all fire equipment is in contact through the network.

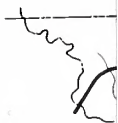
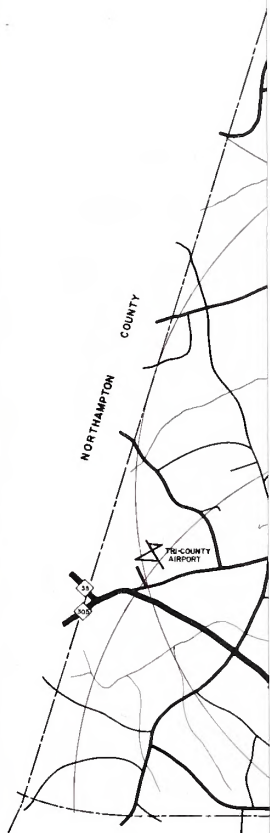
5. The county should begin a concentrated program of fire prevention immediately to utilize the resources of the various fire departments within the county. The county building inspectors should be involved in this undertaking as well as civic clubs and other organizations. Efforts should be made to enlist the aid of the paper companies, the forestry service and the agricultural organizations in this effort.

6. New fire departments should be formed at Como, Cofield, and Union. See illustration on page 9 of this report for proposed fire protection network.

Recommendations for the Future

As Hertford County grows and as the demands of the citizenry for public service increase, new and different approaches must become reality. Many of the services may be combined to offer more complete coverage to the citizenry. Hertford County should begin now to make plans for the consolidation of services. Fire protection, police protection, ambulance service, rescue squad, and civil defense activi-

ties should be combined into a single protection and safety agency. See page 25 of this report for a proposed County Public Safety Authority.



ties should be combined into a single protection and safety agency. See page 25 of this report for a proposed County Public Safety Authority.



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CIVIL DEFENSE

In the past, civil defense efforts have been on a limited, part-time scale in Hertford County with little success. A 200 bed package disaster hospital was acquired and is now stored at the Harrellsville School. Two shelters have been designated and stocked. They are located in the Ahoskie Post Office and the Roanoke Chowan Hospital. Unsuccessful attempts have been made by Hertford County to form a multi-county civil defense program. The county has now employed a full-time Civil Defense Director who also works in the county's new voter registration program.

The new director offers the first opportunity for a viable civil defense program for Hertford County. Such a program should be directed toward accomplishing the following goals:²

1. developing a county civil defense organization with coordination of various agencies within the county;
2. securing and training volunteers in all areas of the county;
3. providing a warning system and communications system for the county;

²Department of Defense, Office of Civil Defense Personal and Family Survival Civil Defense Adult Education Course Manual 1966.

4. preparing an emergency operation plan for the county;
5. locating and stocking shelters in all sections of the county; and
6. conducting a program of public information and education in the county.

Recommendations

1. The civil defense program of the county should be coordinated with other agencies in a total effort for the safety and protection of the people which provides a minimum of duplication and a maximum utilization of available resources.

2. Civil defense technical assistance should be utilized in the planning and construction of public facilities, especially schools, hospitals, fire and police stations.

3. Civil defense resources should be used in the establishing of a county-wide communication network for safety and protection.

Recommendations for the Future

See page 25 of this report for proposed organization of a county Public Safety Authority.

AMBULANCE SERVICE - RESCUE SQUAD

Hertford County entered the ambulance service in November, 1967, when the service was abandoned by funeral homes in nearly all of the state. The county ambulance service is limited to the transfer of patients to and from medical facilities on a non-emergency basis. The county purchased a used 1963 model Cadillac ambulance and erected a shelter on the grounds of the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital to house the vehicle. The ambulance service was designed to be operated by personnel of the County Sheriff's Department, and billing is handled by the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.

This system has been called the cheapest ambulance service in North Carolina.

Emergency ambulance service is dependent upon volunteer citizen rescue squads. Hertford County has four rescue squads located in Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, Harrellsville, and Winton. Rescue squad members are also called on to assist the Sheriff's Department in making non-emergency trips. At the present time, the rescue squads receive no funds from Hertford County.

Deficiencies in the present system can be traced to a large land area with scattered rural population and limited resources. Some of the most pressing problems are outlined below.

1. The present county ambulance is an old vehicle and is subject to mechanical failure. There is no reserve vehicle to operate on a substitute basis.

2. Daytime emergency service poses a problem for the volunteer rescue squads because most of their members work during the day. There is a need for some personnel assistance to rescue squads during the daylight hours.

3. There is a need for communication from the public to the rescue squads, and between the rescue squads and law enforcement agencies, the hospital, other rescue squads, and fire departments.

Recommendations

1. The most pressing need at the present time is for a coordinated over-all program to provide service to the residents of the county that will take full advantage of the county ambulance, the hospital, and the volunteer rescue squads in the county. Such a coordinated effort would work for the following goals.

a. To seek to strengthen the efforts of volunteer rescue squads in their training and operations. This will mean that the county and the various agencies involved will have to come to an agreement whereby the county could do the following:

(1) assist in daytime emergency service either through the use of the hospital personnel and/or

the Sheriff's department;

(2) give financial assistance to rescue squads on a regular basis; and

(3) give special financial assistance to rescue squads for land, buildings, vehicles and equipment.

b. To promote training activities of rescue squads in the county utilizing the facilities of the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute. To have the members of the rescue squads in the county carry on a continuous program of training in first aid for the general public and a program of accident prevention.

c. To promote the creation of new rescue squads at Como and St. Johns to make this service more quickly available to more of the county's citizens.

2. Existing and new rescue squads within the county should be encouraged to locate on the same site as volunteer fire departments to allow for joint use of facilities and communication equipment.

3. One new ambulance should be purchased by the county and located at the Roanoke-Chowan Hospital. The existing ambulance should be retained as a back up unit for the new ambulance.

4. Ambulance service within the county is dependent upon effective communications between the public and the various agencies giving the service. The first step in

filling the communication gap could be the establishing of a county-wide telephone network which would eliminate long distance calls. The next step would be for a radio communication network between law enforcement agencies, rescue squads, fire departments and individual vehicles. Cost of radio communications could be reduced by location of rescue squads and fire departments on the same site utilizing the same equipment.

Recommendations for the Future

As Hertford County grows and as the citizens come to expect more and more services to be provided for them, the county must be able to respond with expanded and improved services. It is unlikely that Hertford County will have a sufficient dense population in the foreseeable future to make it economically feasible for a private ambulance service to come into the county, nor is this probable in the adjoining counties. Therefore, it appears that Hertford County will continue to depend on its public and volunteer private agencies in the future. Hertford County should begin to work now for the consolidation of services. Ambulance service, rescue squads, fire protection, police protection and civil defense could be combined into one County Public Safety Agency. See page 25 of this report for a proposed organization of a County Public Safety Authority.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement in Hertford County is the responsibility of police departments of Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, and Winton and the County Sheriff's Department, which includes the Sheriff, three deputies and one secretary. Their responsibility covers 365 square miles of land and approximately 24,000 people. The Sheriff is also responsible for the County Jail located on the Courthouse property in Winton which employs a jailer who lives in the building. In addition, the responsibility for operating the county ambulance service has been delegated to the Sheriff.

The burden of law enforcement is affected by major shifts in the rural areas, such as the growth of rural non-farm families who require a high degree of service, the general increase of crime, the location of new industries and business outside municipalities, and the general upgrading and technical progress in the field of law enforcement. Obvious deficiencies in the present system are as follows:

1. The present staff of officers is inadequate to meet present needs. Each deputy is now responsible for over 120 square miles; an area which cannot be adequately patrolled. There is no possible way to give 24 hour protection with the present system. The operation of the county ambulance service further decreases the level of protection, not to mention routine and traditional court related duties.

2. The present Sheriff's office is not adequate in size, with the main deficiency being a private office for the Sheriff for private interrogation and consultation. In the future, additional space will be required for added personnel and equipment.

3. At the present time the Sheriff and his deputies are using standard vehicles with no special equipment other than radios. There is a present need for specially equipped vehicles.

4. There is a need for additional personnel to provide twenty-four hour supervision to meet the minimum requirements of the North Carolina Department of Public Welfare. At present, the only supervision is the jailer and his wife who live in the same building. The jail, which was renovated in 1952, is in excellent condition. There is a need for additional storage facilities and expanded hot water capacity.

Recommendations

1. The most pressing need now is the immediate provision of minimum level of protection to the citizens of the county. A minimum effort would require the hiring of two additional law enforcement officers. This initial increase would also require expansion of equipment, namely vehicles. Future increases in personnel could be accomplished without increase in vehicles due to shift assignment.

2. This small increase in manpower will be a minimum effort and it must be amplified by a coordinated overall program to provide safety and protection to the residents of the county. Such a program should stress the following:

a. Coordinate the efforts of law enforcement with fire departments, ambulance service and rescue squads and civil defense, especially in the areas of communications. Provide arrangements for a coordinated ambulance service with the hospital and the rescue squads and the Sheriff's Department.

b. Provide for a communications system which would connect the above agencies. The first step in communications would be for a county-wide telephone system, which would eliminate long distance calls.

c. Provide for a systematic training program utilizing state and regional schools and especially the facilities of the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute.

d. Work for coordinated efforts with municipal law enforcement agencies within the county and with law enforcement agencies in adjoining counties.

3. Provide one additional room to be used as a private office for the Sheriff, for interrogation, and for consultation.

4. It is recommended that the county adopt a policy of replacing Sheriff's Department vehicles every five years or

50,000 miles, whichever occurs first. Mobile radio units on Sheriff department vehicles should be replaced every five years.

It is further recommended that these vehicles be specially constructed and equipped for police work, including the following:

- a. safe separation between front and rear seats;
- b. electronically controlled doors and spot light;
- c. riot gun, stick, helmet and gas mask;
- d. basic tools, flexible steel tape, broom, jump cables, fire extinguisher, tow chain, flares and reflectors; and
- e. first aid equipment.

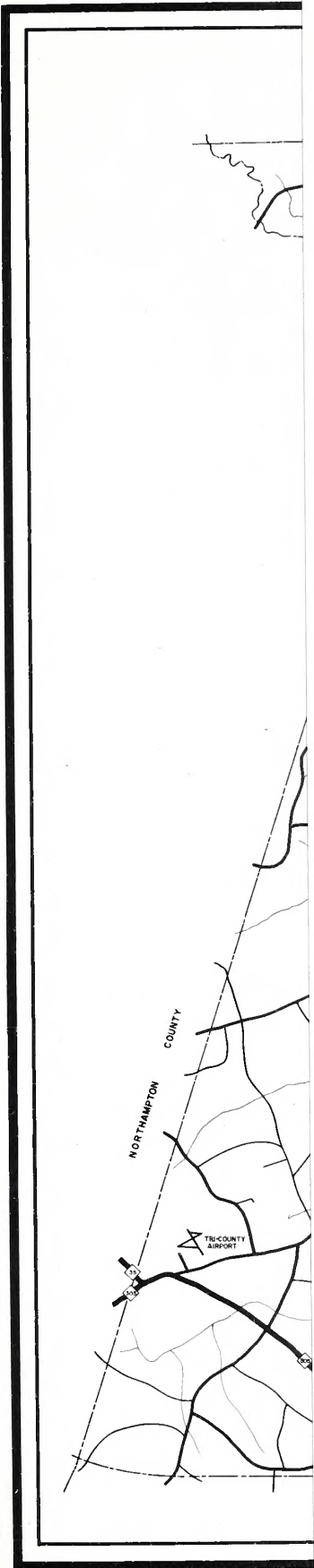
5. Provide equipment so that jail laundry can be handled without hanging on the courthouse grounds. Provide outside storage room so that equipment used by prisoners in the care of the courthouse grounds may be stored out of the weather and out of sight.

6. Designate and mark parking spaces for law enforcement vehicles so that they are not blocked in by others and are free for use.

Recommendations for the Future

As Hertford County grows and becomes more urban, there will have to be new and different approaches to the task of securing the safety of the citizens. Already some counties

and municipalities in North Carolina are seeking to combine their forces into a county-wide system. Hertford County must look into the possibility of increased efficiency through elimination of duplication that might come as a result of such a coordinated effort. At the same time, changes are taking place on the state and regional levels which will point to further coordination on a larger scale. At the present time, studies are being conducted on Law Enforcement by several counties, including Hertford, in the Albemarle Region. These studies and others will help point toward the future in law enforcement. However, now is the time for Hertford County to begin laying the groundwork with the municipalities in the county and with adjoining counties to lead toward future improvement. See page 25 of this report for a proposed County Public Safety Authority.



HERTFORD COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA



Public Safety

EXISTING

PROPOSED



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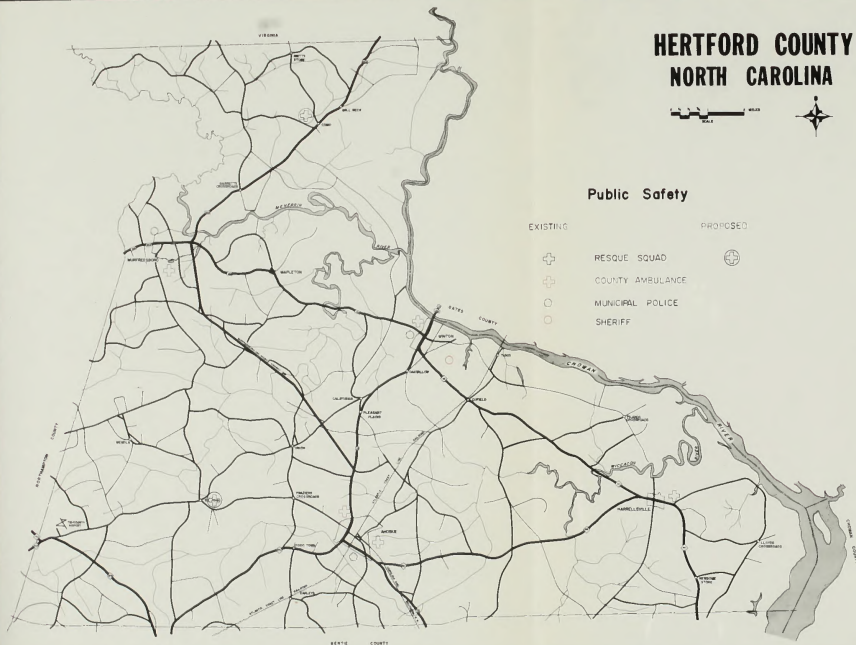
COUNTY AMBULANCE



MUNICIPAL POLICE



SHERIFF



PROPOSED HERTFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY

The North Carolina General Assembly has in recent years provided legislative basis for the combination of municipal and county services and for the expansion of the county's role in the provision of such services. Hertford County has relatively small units of government providing services with limited financing and with inadequate equipment and each with separate administration. The combination of all safety and protection agencies within the county would provide economy of operation by combined use of equipment, manpower, and facilities. The level of service would be increased through such a coordinated effort.

Organization

A proposed organizational chart for a County Public Safety Agency is shown on illustration No. 3. The combination of county, municipal, and community agencies will not be a small task. Each interest must be consulted and each must contribute to conception of a single purpose agency. In addition, special agreements must be reached and contracts made which will probably require special legislation. A tentative operational and structural sketch is described below:

1. Joint County-Municipal Public Safety Authority: It is recommended that a Public Safety Authority be organized by and supervised by a single policy board, composed of

representatives from all municipalities and from the county-at-large. This board would be appointed by the municipalities and the county commissioners.

2. Director: The director would be hired by and directly under the Joint County-Municipal Public Safety Authority and would be responsible for administering the policies of the board. The director would be in charge of the County Fire Department, the County Patrol, the County Rescue Ambulance Service, and County Civil Defense, as well as the County Communications Network.

3. Sheriff: The Sheriff would work with the Director and would continue to serve in court related duties.

4. County Communications Network: A central communications network would be established with the director's office and would coordinate communications throughout the county. With the installation of a county-wide telephone system the network center would handle all police, fire, rescue and civil defense calls.

5. County Fire Department: Under this department there would be no part of the county over five miles from a fire department and most areas would be within four miles. All rural fire departments would be connected with the central communications network and would have four mile coverage. New rural fire departments would have to be organized at Cofield, Como, and Union. Fire, Patrol, and Rescue would

be located on the same site to use joint facilities and communication equipment.

6. County Patrol: Three main patrol stations would be located at Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, and Winton with sub-stations located at Como, Harrellsville, and St. Johns. All county patrol would be tied to the central Communications Network.

7. County Rescue-Ambulance Service: New rescue squads would be created at Como and St. Johns. All rescue squads would be tied to the Central Communications Network. No part of the county would be over six miles from a rescue squad. The county non-emergency ambulance service would be operated by Roanoke-Chowan Hospital.

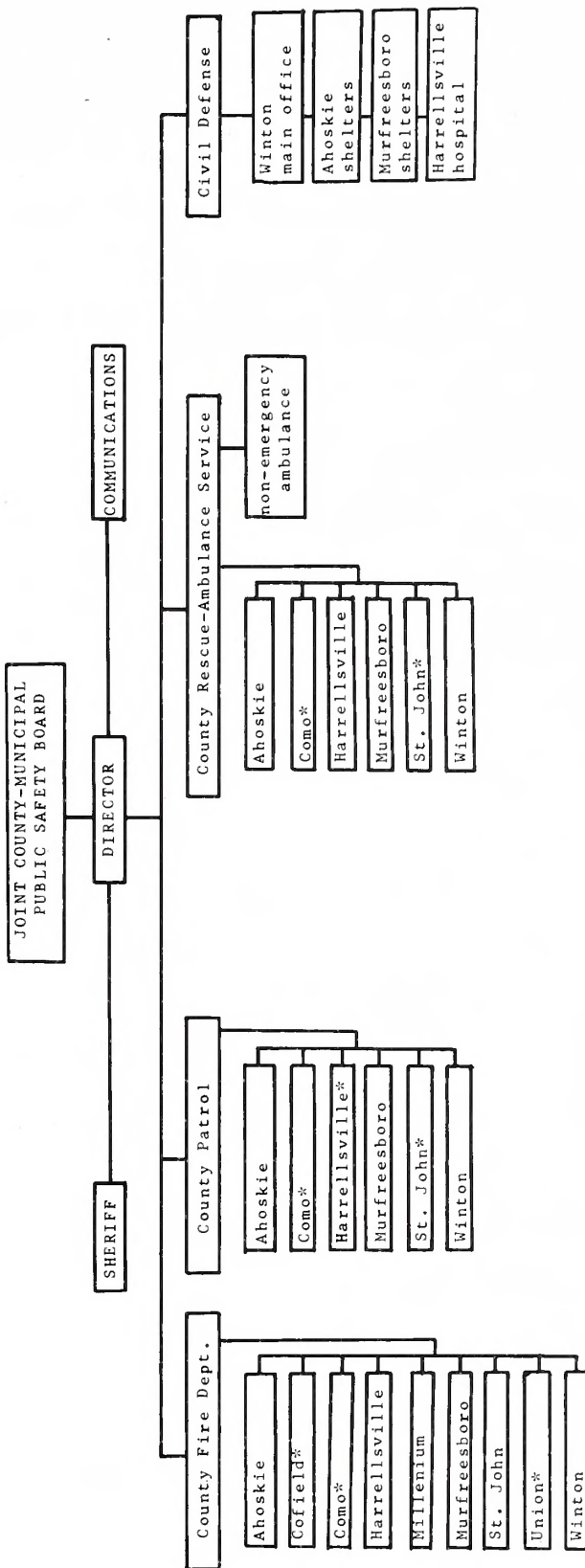
8. Civil Defense: The main office of the Civil Defense Director would be located with the Director of the County Public Safety Authority and Civil Defense Communications would be with the County Communications Network. Shelters would be designated and stocked in Ahoskie and Murfreesboro and at county schools and buildings. The emergency hospital would be stored in Harrellsville.

Tentative Implementation Schedule

1970-71 - Begin to bring all units of government and communities together for initial organization, survey and planning. Initial efforts should be made by the county using the office of the

- County Planner, the County Civil Defense Director, the Sheriff, and various Police Chiefs.
- 1971-72 - Form a joint County-Municipal Public Safety Authority. Begin detail planning for department organization. Prepare special legislation to present to the General Assembly.
- 1973-74 - Present special legislation to the General Assembly. Hire a director.
- 1974-75 - Begin County Communications Network. Consolidate Fire and Rescue into one operation.
- 1975-80 - Organize County Patrol and assign districts. Complete County Communications Network.

PROPOSED HERTFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AUTHORITY



*New units proposed at these locations.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Hertford-Gates District Health Department serves public health needs in Hertford and Gates Counties with its main office located in Winton and a supplementary office located in Gatesville. In addition, clinics are operated in Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, Harrelsville, and Como. The operation is under a district health board composed of eight members, three from Gates County and five from Hertford County. The Health Director has a staff of one sanitarian, three secretaries and seven public health nurses.

The public health program has been characterized in recent years by expansion in scope, with ever increasing responsibilities and new programs. In the past six years the following programs were started in the Hertford-Gates District Health Department.

- (1) Planned Parenthood
- (2) Immunization Education Aide
- (3) Pediatric Supervisory Program
- (4) Tuberculosis Special Program
- (5) Chest Clinic
- (6) Diabetic Screening

There is every reason to expect that the demands will continue to increase for health service in the future and that more emphasis will be placed on prevention and on environment and sanitation in the future.

The most obvious deficiency in the present public health program is the scattered low income population, and the lack

of financial resources to provide an adequate health program. Small health departments have a great difficulty in trying to attract qualified personnel and providing funds to pay for needed personnel.

Further, the health department must work with the poor element of the community and often does not have the support of the more affluent citizenry. Without public concern, local health efforts do not have strength, and programs are not successful in meeting the needs of the people. A strong effective local health program must have the personnel to perform the task and the public officials who give support to its programs.

One of the major problems in the health program is the problem of communication with the people who need the services. Some efforts in this regard are being made by various community action agencies in the county and the region. Transportation is critical to many of the needy people as well as basic education.

In addition, the department does not have an adequate sanitation program. There is a pressing need for inspection on all levels and for a coordinated effort with the county's building inspection program.

Recommendations

In the County Facilities Questionnaire, the Health Director stated the following needs.

1. One additional sanitarian.
2. Parking space for the public immediately behind the main office building in Winton.
3. Future increase in space as further programs are initiated and new personnel are added.

Further recommendations are as follows:

1. The department should begin a program of information designed to give more understanding of its role to the general public and to enlist support for public health programs. Private volunteer aid should be encouraged by such a program in such matters as providing education, and family-to-family assistance.
2. The department should take positive action in regard to safe water and sewerage, solid waste disposal, drainage, and rodent control, by hiring an additional sanitarian who would work in cooperation with Hertford County's program of building inspection, zoning and subdivision regulation.
3. The department should purchase two small busses or station wagons to provide transportation to and from health clinics.

Recommendations for the Future

The groundwork laid by Hertford and Gates Counties in consolidating their efforts to provide public health ser-

vice at a level neither could afford alone, should be a beginning point for an even broader consolidation in the future. Hertford County should now begin to explore and study and set the framework for future cooperative efforts involving more counties to meet the demands for expanded programs and to compete for qualified personnel in the areas of sanitation, nursing, and administration.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Hertford County Social Services Department consists of a director, three clerical workers, one food clerk, five social workers (not all positions are filled) and one blind caseworker, all of which work out of the department office in the old office building in Winton. The department also has a food storage warehouse in Ahoskie. The department does not now have adequate office space and there is an immediate need for additional workers which will increase the needs for office space.

Deficiencies that now exist are as follows:

1. There is a lack of office space to meet immediate requirements in the amount of six additional offices.

2. There is a need for additional personnel at the present time and expanding programs will mean even more personnel in the near future.

3. There is a very real lack of communication between the department and the general public that leaves the department subject to adverse criticism and lacking in public support for its programs. The department has recently released a series of newspaper articles to inform the public of its programs and functions. Such efforts should be continued and expanded using various communications media.

Recommendations

1. The Social Services Department should be furnished sufficient office space, preferably occupying a building of their own. In addition, it is recommended that the department establish small branch offices in Ahoskie and Murfreesboro utilizing the same facilities that are used by the Health Department.

2. It is recommended that the Social Services Department conduct a continuous program of information through its personnel, the press, and radio to better inform the public and to gain public understanding and support for its programs. The County Commissioners of Hertford County should make a strong stand for a good welfare program in the county. Lack of public support is translated into negative attitudes toward a much needed strong welfare program in the county.

Recommendations for the Future

Hertford County must bear in mind that the best welfare program is the combination of all efforts, social, economic, and educational, that will enable individuals to support themselves and not require public support at all. This places additional emphasis on the programs of the public schools, the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute and all of the Economic Development activities within the county. However, past experience and increasingly broader programs of public welfare point to continued direct welfare programs

in the future. As it has in other programs, the county should begin now to lay the groundwork for a multi-county or regional effort to gain efficiency and economy for future programs.

PART 2

THE PHYSICAL PLANT

OFFICE SPACE

The Hertford County courthouse complex is located on approximately a 15 acre site in the Town of Winton. The courthouse is located on a block with the county jail and a well house and garage owned by the Town of Winton. The old county office building (office building No. 1) is located across the street from the courthouse and adjoins privately owned property. The Health Department is located north of the courthouse. The new county library is located to the rear of the courthouse and within a few feet of a private residential lot. The new office building is located 62 feet west of the new library. See map No. 4 on page 42 of this report for the location of county buildings.

The county also provides office space in the following areas of the county:

N. C. Department of Revenue	Ahoskie
Surplus Food Storage	Ahoskie
Employment Security Commission	Ahoskie
Health Clinic	Ahoskie
Health Clinic	Harrellsville
Health Clinic	Murfreesboro
Dog Pound	St. Johns

A survey was conducted to evaluate the needs, present and future, for office space of the county. In general, the survey indicates that there is a need for additional space for agencies and departments that are located in the old county office building (office building No. 1), especially the Social Services Department and the Board of

Education. The study also reveals that most agencies and departments expect future expansions that will make the need even more severe. There is also a need for parking for most all county buildings. The only paved off-street parking available is at the rear of the office building No. 1 and this pavement is in need of repair.

The following list shows current office space available in the courthouse complex in Winton.

COURTHOUSE

Office	Space Adequate	Renovations Needed*
Courtroom	yes	no
Magistrates Office	yes	no
Law Library	yes	no
Clerk of Court	yes	no
Register of Deeds	yes	no
County Manager	yes	no
Sheriff	no	yes

*Extensive renovation is now being completed in the courthouse which saw enlargement of the vaults in both the Clerk of Court and Register of Deeds offices and the addition of a private office for the County Manager.

OFFICE BUILDING NO. 1

Office	Space Adequate	Renovations Needed*
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation	no	yes
Agricultural Extension	no	yes
Tax Department	no	yes
Commissioners Room	yes	no
Board of Education	no	yes
Welfare Department	no	yes

Note: The recent removal of the Albemarle Regional and Hertford County library offices out of this building have left two offices which are needed by every department in the building and will do little to offset demands for space.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING

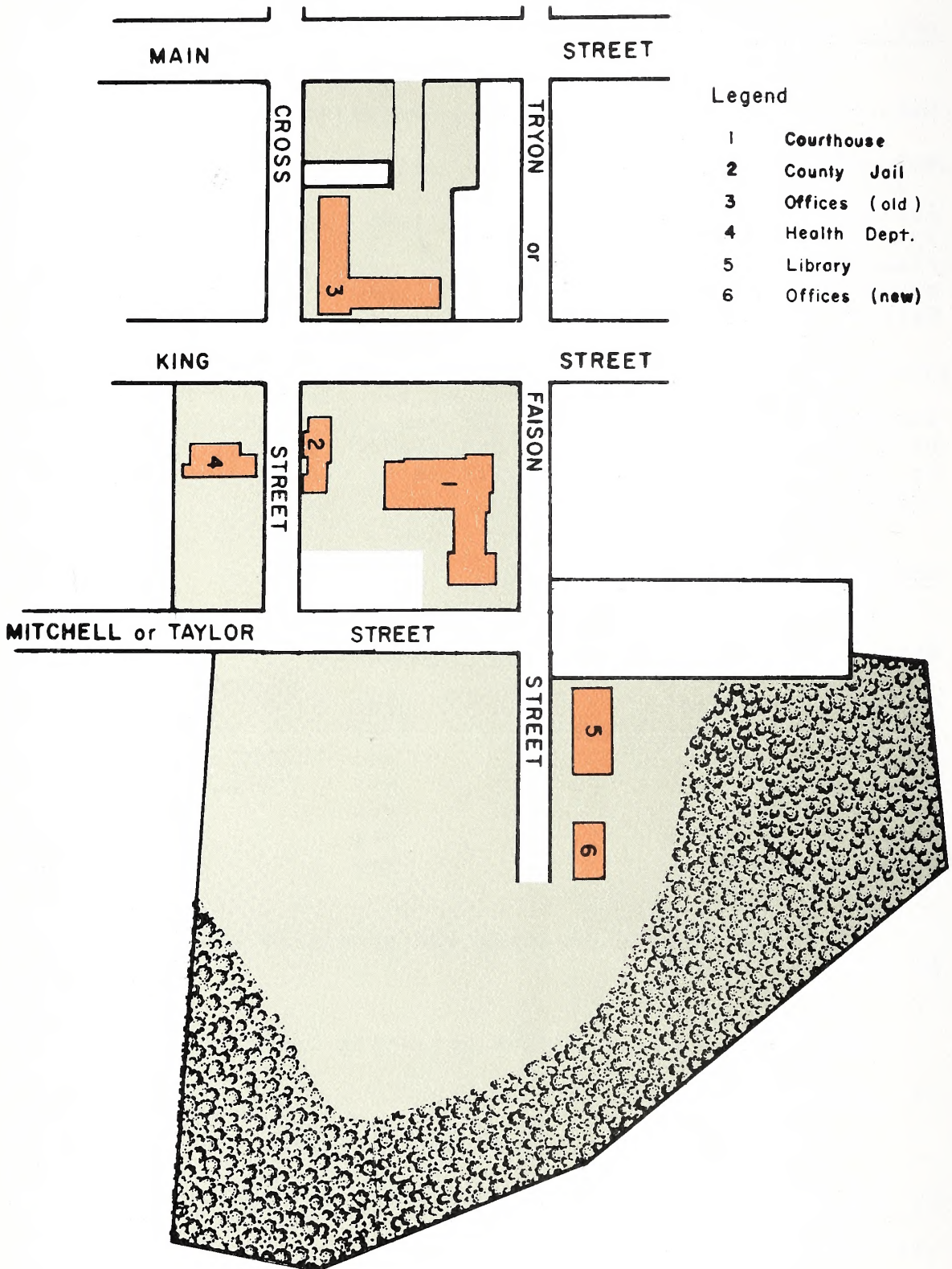
Office	Space Adequate	Renovations Needed*
Selective Service	yes	no
Farmers Home Administration	yes	no
Soil Conservation	yes	no
Veterans Service	yes	no
County Planner	yes	no
Building Inspector	yes	no
Crop Insurance	yes	no

*This new office building was completed and occupied in November 1968.

The present office space situation in Hertford County has the following deficiencies:

1. There is insufficient space to meet present and future demands and there is a lack of off-street parking for the citizens who visit the various offices.

Existing Courthouse Complex Hertford County



2. The offices are scattered making it difficult to achieve efficiency and economy of operation through cooperation of various office personnel and in the use of specialized equipment and personnel. This scattering also confuses the citizen in locating the various offices.

3. The lot owned by the Town of Winton next to the courthouse represents a barrier to the development of the courthouse property, and the buildings on this lot are already an eyesore. By the same token the residential lot adjacent to the new library represents a threat to this expensive facility.

4. There is lacking an overall plan for the Courthouse Complex that seeks to integrate existing buildings and future buildings into a functional facility.

Recommendations

1. The commissioners should hire a Surveyor to survey all lands in the Courthouse Complex and to prepare an accurate plat showing the location of all buildings, streets, utilities above and below ground and any rights-of-way or other easements.

2. The commissioners should instruct the Planning Board to prepare an overall site development plan for facilities within the courthouse complex taking into consideration present and future needs and the interrelation of

various agencies requiring office space so that economy and efficiency can be effected through coordinated operations.

a. That the county purchase the lot owned by the Town of Winton at the rear of the courthouse for county use and purchase the lot adjoining the new library in order to protect the library.

b. That the county consider the moving of all agricultural offices to one building.

c. That the county construct needed off-street parking within the framework of an overall plan.

d. That the county print a map and directory to be placed in the hall of each county building to serve as a guide to the citizens.

e. That the county establish a fund to purchase student art in the county to be used to decorate the walls of county buildings.

Recommendations for the Future

As far as possible the county must keep in mind the possibility of future consolidation of county functions with the functions of municipalities within the county and with other counties within the region. The county must then remain flexible and it must be now making preparation with studies and information that it will be able to take advantage of in the future and not be tied to an inflexible system.

TRI-COUNTY AIRPORT

The Tri-County Airport, located on N. C. Route 561 in the southwest corner of Hertford County is owned by Bertie, Hertford and Northampton Counties and administered by an Airport Authority. Initial construction of the airport was completed in 1964 under the Federal-Aid Airport Program. The original construction consisted of a 3500' X 200' turfed landing strip with turfed apron and stub taxiway. The airport was enlarged and paved in 1966 to 3950' X 75' runway with paved apron and paved stub taxiway. The airport lighting system was installed in 1968.

A small administrative building and a four plane hanger has been constructed at the airport site. A resident caretaker was hired in 1969. In July 1969, the Tri-County Pilots and Associates were organized to support the airport.

The engineering firm of John Talbert and Associates of Wilmington, North Carolina prepared an airport plan and report for the airport in 1967. The anticipated airport requirements for the Tri-County airport for the next five years as reported by the National Airport Plan for fiscal year 1969 were as follows:

- a. construct paved taxiway turnaround on both ends of runway;
- b. install medium intensity taxiway lights on turnaround; and
- c. expand airport parking apron.

Due to increased activity, the Federal Aviation Administration has recommended that a planning study be made to determine future aeronautical needs and that the airport layout plan be updated to reflect the study.

Recommendations

1. It is vital that the area surrounding the airport be zoned to protect the airport and adjoining uses.

2. Coordination with the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute should be continued and strengthened. Classes in aviation are already being conducted by the Institute.

3. The county should give consideration to the purchase of land or option of land adjacent to the airport for industrial development. The industrial site should be adjacent to the runway on the east and front on N. C. Route 561. Light industry requiring airport access should be solicited for this development.

ROANOKE-CHOWAN HOSPITAL

The hospital is a major asset to Hertford County and surrounding areas. The trustees after making an evaluation of present and future needs³ have recommended construction of a new 125 bed hospital with 200 bed service capability. The proposed new hospital would be constructed on a new site of 40 to 50 acres. The trustees have further proposed that the existing hospital be converted into a supportive extended care unit.

The cost of the new hospital facility is estimated to be over four million dollars with the county to provide 2.5 million through a bond issue. The proposed bond issue was defeated by a margin of 287 votes in July, 1969. Since this time a "Four County Hospital Committee, with representatives from Bertie, Gates, Northampton and Hertford Counties, has been formed to discuss the possibility of an area hospital. Most agree that the trustees will continue to seek county funds through bond issue for the proposed new hospital.

The existing hospital has a 110 bed capacity and is located on a 6.2 acre site in Ahoskie. The hospital has

³ See Roanoke-Chowan Hospital - An evaluation of present and future needs, May, 1968. Cardwell and Howell Hospital Consultants, The Freeman-White Associates, Inc., Architects and Engineers.

separate nurses living quarters, laundry and classroom building. There are 21 members on the medical staff and 86 full-time nurses with a total of 183 full-time employees.

Roanoke-Chowan Hospital has inter-related activities with Chowan College and Duke University in nurse training and with the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute. The hospital has a working arrangement with the county in providing ambulance service.

The hospital's main service area includes portions of Northampton and Bertie Counties and some service to portions of Gates and Martin Counties. Efforts to bring portions of Northampton and Bertie County into support of the Hospital have so far been unsuccessful.

Recommendations

1. That Hertford continue its efforts to bring in adjoining counties into direct financial participation in the construction and operation of the proposed hospital.

2. That provisions be made at the new hospital site to house the county ambulance and that the hospital staff be brought into a coordinated county ambulance service.

Recommendations for the Future

In the future, Hertford County must find ways to coordinate its total health effort, utilizing all facilities of

its public health service, the mental health clinic and the educational institutions of the county. The county must continue its efforts to bring adjoining counties into a direct responsibility for health care.

PART 3

WATER, SEWER AND WASTE

WATER AND SEWER

At the present time only three municipalities in the county have both public water and public sewer systems. These are Ahoskie, Murfreesboro and Winton. Como has a water system and Harrelsville, presently served by a private water system, is now in the process of putting in a new water system and hopes to add a sewer system. Cofield has a water system and the community of Millenium has an FHA water system. The Signboard Community (near St. Johns), Barretts Crossroad Community (near Como), and the Riverview Community (near Murfreesboro) have all expressed an interest in community water systems.

Hertford County is blessed with abundant ground water supplies that require very little treatment to be used in a water system, making small community water systems possible without great costs. Federal programs are available through EDA and FHA to give assistance to small rural communities. It is reasonable to expect that the number of such systems will increase in the county. High cost of sewage systems will limit their development in the county and there will continue to be many individual septic tank systems within the county. The county is limited at the present by the sparse residential development and the lack of financial resources to provide an overall system for water and sewer for the county.

A Comprehensive Water and Sewer Study for Hertford County by Rivers and Associates, Inc., consulting engineers of Greenville, North Carolina, was completed in the fall of 1969. The findings and recommendations of this study are endorsed by the Hertford County Planning Board. This study makes both general and specific recommendations for rural, municipal, community and private water and sewer systems. Copies of Comprehensive Water and Sewer Study are available to the public at the County Planner's Office in Winton.

Recommendations

1. The County Commissioners should require the county sanitarian to begin an immediate systematic inspection of existing individual water supplies and sewage disposal systems. At the same time, there should be strict enforcement of Health Department regulations for new water supply and disposal systems.

2. The county should make arrangements to keep the Water and Sewer Study up-to-date and to review annually, with a professional update every five years.

3. The county should provide technical assistance to communities in the planning and financing of public water and sewer systems.

4. The county should coordinate the efforts of the communities with the systems of other communities and with the interested agencies, such as rural fire departments,

Economic Development Agency, and the Health Department.

5. The county should actively guard its ground water resources and its rivers and streams by being informed and by cooperation with local and state agencies to prevent depletion and pollution. The county should actively work to upgrade the classification of its streams and rivers.

Recommendations for the Future

To meet the challenge of the future, Hertford County should create a county water and sewer agency comprised of representatives from all municipalities, communities and agencies within the county. Such an agency should be charged with the responsibility for coordinating water and sewer systems within the county and the promotion of new systems in needed areas. The agency would also be responsible for conservation and protection of natural water supplies within the county. In the beginning, the agency should serve as a focal point for the gathering and exchange of related data and technical knowledge. It would represent the county with agencies of the region, state, and the Federal Government. Later, the agency should serve as the policy board of a combined water and sewer system serving the entire county.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The citizens and the various government officials in the county have become increasingly concerned with the problem of solid waste disposal. The problem of solid waste has traditionally been met by the municipalities. In Hertford County only the towns of Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, and Winton are making provisions for solid waste disposal. At the present, the following waste disposal programs are offered in Hertford County.

Town of Ahoskie - The town has acquired a 12 acre site which it attempts to operate as a sanitary landfill according to State Health Department recommendations. The site is manned, and trenching is contracted. Non-town residents, including industries, use the site in addition to the town. Due to larger than expected volume and the lack of equipment, the town has resorted to some burning before filling.

Town of Murfreesboro - The town has a site that is leased from a paper company. Trenching and filling is done every sixty days by private contractor. In the interim period the town utilizes its front end loader. The site is unmanned and there is indiscriminate dumping. The site is utilized by non-town residents. Burning is used in the disposal process at the site.

Town of Winton - The town has a new waste disposal site on land near the Parker's Ferry Road. Fill is hauled to the site when needed. The site is unmanned and is used by non-town residents. The site is already beginning to show results of indiscriminate dumping. The entrance and road to the disposal area is littered with piles of waste.

Deficiencies in the present system are as follows:

1. Old systems of dump-burn and push used in most small municipalities are hazardous to the health and safety of the people.

2. A sanitary landfill operation represents the only economically feasible and healthful method to meet present needs.

3. New and expanding industries are adding to the volume of solid waste to be disposed of.

4. Rural non-farm development and changes in habits of rural people leave more people and business with no place to dispose of solid waste except to haul it to municipal disposal areas or dump it along roads or in the woods.

Recommendations

1. The county should provide a series of waste disposal sites throughout the county so that no resident of the county would be over six miles from a site. The series of sites should utilize the existing disposal sites used by the Towns of Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, and Winton and new sites

would be located near Como, Harrellsville and St. Johns. This will mean that the county will have to enter into an agreement with the towns having existing sites to share in the cost of operation and to insure the right of non-town residents to use the facilities. At the same time, the county should establish other waste disposal sites.

2. The County Commissioners and/or the County Board of Health should adopt and enforce regulations covering the disposal of solid waste within the county.

3. The County Commissioners should encourage civic clubs and organizations to begin a continuing anti-litter campaign through the news media and public schools.

4. The County Commissioners should encourage large land owners in the county, such as paper companies, to donate sites for disposal areas and to assist in the county's anti-litter campaign.

Recommendations for the Future

In the future, a single agency handling both collection and disposal of solid waste should be formed to provide service for all the citizens of Hertford County. This agency should have its own staff and equipment to work all sites in the county, and to handle collection on a district basis. Such an agency would eliminate duplication of manpower and equipment. The County Commissioners should begin now to discuss the formation of such an agency with the various municipalities of the county.

PART 4

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

RECREATION

Hertford County has in the past had little recreation, program or facilities, except those provided by municipalities, schools, civic clubs and private interests. In the recent past, recreational activities have increased on every level in the county, with growing demands for recreational facilities. This growth is evident in small rural communities as well as Ahoskie and Murfreesboro. On the county level, the county commissioners appointed a recreation commission in 1968, which has been active in surveying existing recreational facilities and in the promotion of a county park. At the present time, the county has no direct recreation facilities or program. There are indirect recreational facilities and programs through the county schools and through the community action agencies.

In the most general terms, Hertford County has taken the first step in appointing the recreation commission. The next step is to develop an overall service involving both facilities and programs. For the location of proposed recreation facilities in Hertford County see Hertford County, North Carolina Land Development Plan.

There is a great need for a recreation plan for Hertford County to outline both program and facilities for the future.

Recommendations

1. The county should acquire a county park, preferably on the Chowan River, 50 acres or more in size, and develop it with camping, boat launch, picnic, etc.

2. The county should acquire a park (15 to 25 acres each) adjacent to each of the two new high school complexes.

3. The county should also acquire other lands for recreation with priority given to the following:

- a. land adjacent to new schools;
- b. lands of historical value, including sites of Indian villages; and
- c. lands with access to water or with natural beauty.

4. The county should establish a fund for assisting communities in acquiring sites and facilities.

5. The county should arrange for a joint full-time recreation program in cooperation with the municipalities of the county with a permanent recreation staff.

6. The county should continue the excellent cooperation it now has in the use of public school facilities and encourage the construction of recreation facilities in new schools in such a manner as to be used in the overall county recreational program.

7. The county should begin working for and supporting a state park in the North Coastal Plains as outlined in the report of the State Parks and State Forest Study Commission

entitled North Carolina State Parks for the Future. Undeveloped lands on the Chowan River in Gates County should be supported for this park.

8. The county should encourage private non-profit and private commercial recreational development that will enhance the life of county residents and complement public recreation and historic preservation efforts within the county.

Recommendations for the Future

As leisure time increases and as demands for varied recreation increase, Hertford County should take positive actions to promote recreational development at all levels. It should work for coordinated efforts with public and private interests; it should protect its valuable natural recreational resources, its forest, rivers, its air and water. It must constantly be on guard against the pollution of the air and water and the destruction of the landscape by haphazard development and by careless abuse. The County Recreation Commission should serve the county in all of these areas and be active in every section of the county.

HERTFORD COUNTY LIBRARY

The Hertford County Library is a part of the Albemarle Regional Library, which also serves Bertie, Gates, and Northampton County. The Town of Murfreesboro Library is a part of the Hertford County Library and is thereby affiliated with the Regional Library. The Town of Ahoskie Library is independent. However, there is an informal exchange of books between the Ahoskie Library and the Regional Library. The Hertford County Colored Public Library, also known as the Hart Library, is now being merged into the Regional Library. Each of the four counties in the Regional Library has a County Library Board and three members from each County Library Board make up the Regional Library Board. The main office of the Regional Library is located in Winton and facilities are provided by Hertford County.

The Regional Library has a total of 91,707 volumes for an estimated population of 83,133 with 17,077 volumes, (not including 6,937 volumes in the Ahoskie Public Library) assigned to Hertford County with an estimated population of 23,000. Circulation for the period June, 1968 to July, 1969, was 109,389 volumes for the Region and 19,737 for Hertford County (not including Ahoskie Public Library). Approximately 50% of circulation was through the Bookmobile Service of the library.

The Regional Library has one professional trained librarian, one assistant and one bookmobile driver. The Hertford County Library has one librarian. The librarian of the Hertford County Colored Public Library is retiring. The Murfreesboro Public Library has one full-time librarian. The Town of Ahoskie Public Library has two librarians who work on a shift basis.

New facilities for the Hertford County Library and the main office of the Albemarle Regional Library, with storage space and work space and a seating capacity for 30 people, have just been completed at the Courthouse Complex in Winton. These facilities are adequate to serve as headquarters and storage and to serve the Town of Winton. The Murfreesboro Public Library is located in a one room store building, and its facilities are inadequate in every respect. The Town of Ahoskie Public Library is located in a residential structure next to the town hall and is also inadequate. Attempts are being made in both Ahoskie and Murfreesboro to provide new facilities for their public libraries. The county has budgeted the sum of \$10,000 for each of these two towns to assist in providing new facilities. Plans for upgrading the Ahoskie Public Library are given in the publication Community Facilities Plan and Public Improvements Program: Ahoskie, North Carolina.

In addition to the facilities mentioned above, there are library resources available in the public schools of the

county, in the Library and Learning Lab of the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute, in small church libraries, and in the Library of Chowan College. The services of the North Carolina State Library are now available to any person or library through toll free telephone service, called IN-WATS.

Deficiencies in the library system in Hertford County at the present time are as follows:

1. Both Ahoskie and Murfreesboro, the population centers of the county, are in dire need of modern library facilities.

2. There is need at the regional, county, and municipal level for additional personnel to provide a modern library program.

3. Hertford County's less than one volume per capita ratio indicates a weakness in the library's basic commodity. The county should seek the goal of two volumes per capita.

4. Because of many factors, the libraries have not been used by many of the citizens who need the services most.

Recommendations

1. The county should continue to encourage the provision of modern facilities in the Ahoskie and Murfreesboro Public Libraries.

2. The county should continue to support the Hertford County Library through the Albemarle Regional Library working to provide the following:

a. increased personnel to provide adequate services;

b. the continuation of the highly successful book-mobile program to provide services to rural areas;

c. the addition of the necessary volumes to bring the ratio up to two volumes per capita; and

d. operating hours that coincide with leisure time of the people.

3. The county should work to coordinate the various library operations in the county, including schools, Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute, Chowan College and interested persons in a county-wide program to promote the use of libraries.

Recommendations for the Future

More and more the people are turning to the public libraries for more than recreation. The library provides information and material to the student, the businessman, and to the professions. The growing number of night students make the public library somewhat an extension of the public school system. As Hertford County has joined with other counties in the Albemarle Region to provide more comprehensive and efficient library service; so in the future the lines between the public schools, technical institute, college and private libraries must be drawn toward a coordi-

nated effort. Hertford County should begin now to lay the groundwork for coordinated library activities within the county.

SCHOOLS

In the face of new challenges in the field of Education, Hertford County has taken many forward steps. One step was the incorporation of all public schools in the county under one administrative unit, the Hertford County Board of Education. Another step was the work that led to the creation of the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute (see page 75 of this report). Now the county has outlined a five year program that is designed to bring about a completely desegregated school system. This program has already gained the support of the public in the passage of a bond issue to construct two new high schools that will serve all students of the county. The county has benefitted from special programs for disadvantaged students through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Many special classes, including kindergarten, have involved most of the county schools in summer programs giving fuller utilization of the county's school facilities. School facilities have been made available to the general public for recreational purposes including gymnasiums, and even the facilities of the Harrellsville School which are no longer used for classes.

The Board of Education is located in the old county office building in Winton with certain sections, including ESEA offices, located in the Winton School, which is no

longer used for classes. There is, at the present time, a need for additional office space in the main office.

The Hertford County Public School System now has seven active school plants serving 6750 students with 272 teachers in a district covering 365 square miles.

HERTFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MAY, 1969

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	<u>Site Acreage</u>
A. S. CHERRY	1-8	224	9	10
AHOSKIE GRADED	1-6	951	33	10½
AHOSKIE HIGH	7-12	998	42	10
C. S. BROWN	1-12	1,177	49	10.9
MURFREESBORO	1-12	679	32	17.6
R. L. VANN	1-12	1,814	70	12
RIVERVIEW	1-8	<u>907</u>	<u>37</u>	23
TOTAL		6,750	272	

Source: Superintendent of Hertford County Schools

Program for the Future to 1975

In order to meet the demands of the present and future for the education of citizens, the Hertford County School Board has proposed a long range improvement program to the State Board of Education. A synopsis is listed in the following paragraphs.

1. It is proposed that a new High School Complex (Grades 10, 11, and 12) be constructed in two areas of the county. One complex is to be built on a 50 acre site near Ahoskie and designed to accommodate 1,200 students. The other is to be located near Murfreesboro on a 45 acre site and designed for 800 students. A bond election has already been passed for the major facilities of these two plants, and construction is to begin in the near future. The sites are already under option and are shown on page 73 of this report.

2. It is proposed that a new Junior High School Complex be constructed on each of the above two sites by 1975 housing grades 7, 8, and 9.

3. It is proposed that an Elementary School Complex (grades K - 6) be formed in three areas; Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, and Winton. The Elementary School Complex in each area will utilize existing school plants as far as possible. The proposed Elementary School arrangement will come into being as soon as the other two phases (junior and senior high) are completed.

In the interim period, major renovation projects are planned in all existing school plants, except A. S. Cherry School and Ahoskie Grade School.

Recommendations

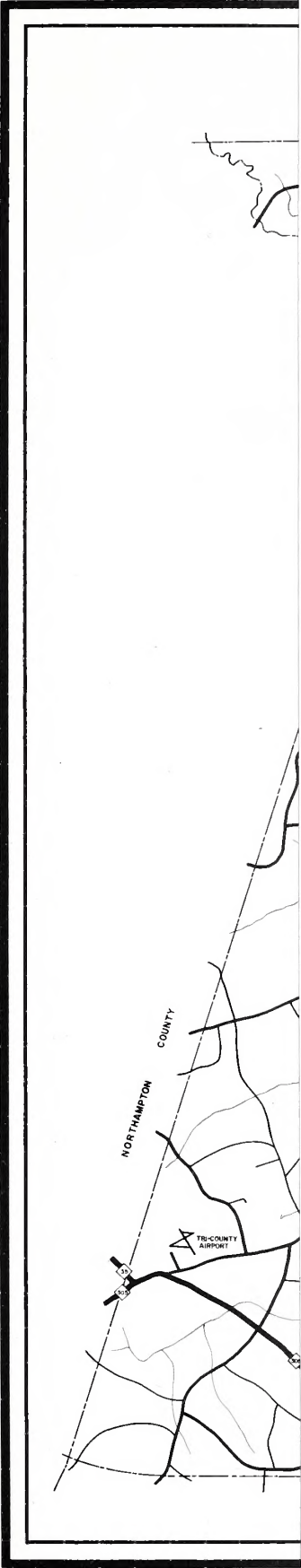
1. A county park should be developed adjacent to each of the new high school sites, with joint use of facilities.

2. The School Board should construct new school plants so that recreational facilities can be used by the general public when school is not in session.

Recommendations for the Future

It takes no seer to predict that the future will place even more demands on our public school systems with ever advancing technology and expanding programs. To meet these changes will require continued planning and study to gain the most from coordinated efforts. The vocational training afforded by the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute must complement the vocational education program now planned by the public schools and not compete with or duplicate. So must the programs of the library and recreation of the public schools be coordinated with the programs of the general public.

As the county and the municipalities have benefitted from the one administrative unit, so must the county consider for the future the potential benefits of a multi-county or regional administration of schools.



Recommendations

1. A county park should be developed adjacent to each of the new high school sites, with joint use of facilities.

2. The School Board should construct new school plants so that recreational facilities can be used by the general public when school is not in session.

Recommendations for the Future

It takes no seer to predict that the future will place even more demands on our public school systems with ever advancing technology and expanding programs. To meet these changes will require continued planning and study to gain the most from coordinated efforts. The vocational training afforded by the Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute must complement the vocational education program now planned by the public schools and not compete with or duplicate. So must the programs of the library and recreation of the public schools be coordinated with the programs of the general public.

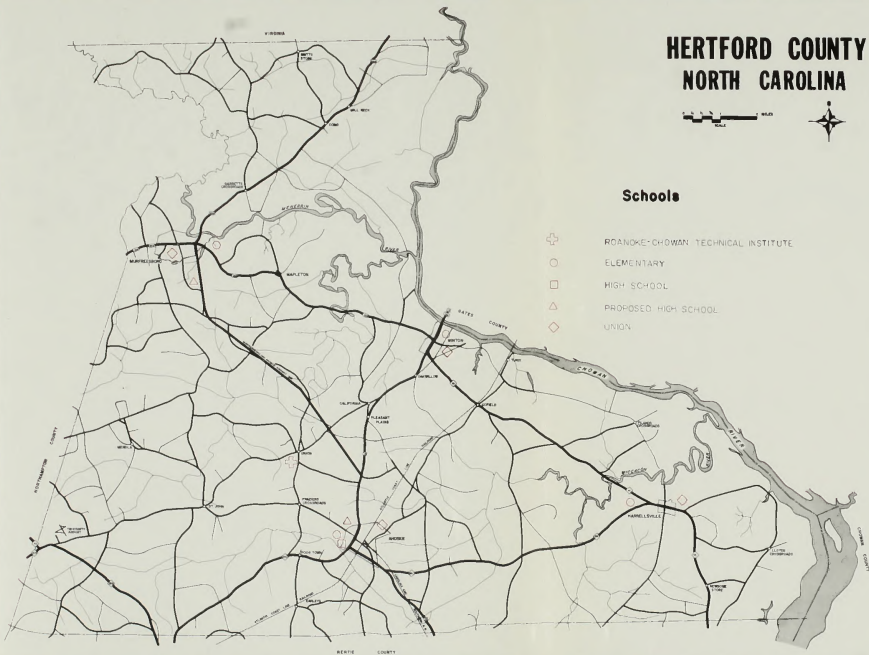
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HERTFORD COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA



Schools

- + ROANOKE-CHOWAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
- ELEMENTARY
- HIGH SCHOOL
- △ PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL
- ◇ UNION



ROANOKE-CHOWAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Roanoke-Chowan Technical Institute was established in September of 1967, on a contract basis with North Carolina Division of Community Colleges, designed to serve Hertford, Bertie and Northampton Counties. The Institute, whose trustees are from these three counties, received its charter in May, 1969. The Institute has a current enrollment of approximately 1,400 with 179 students in full-time courses.

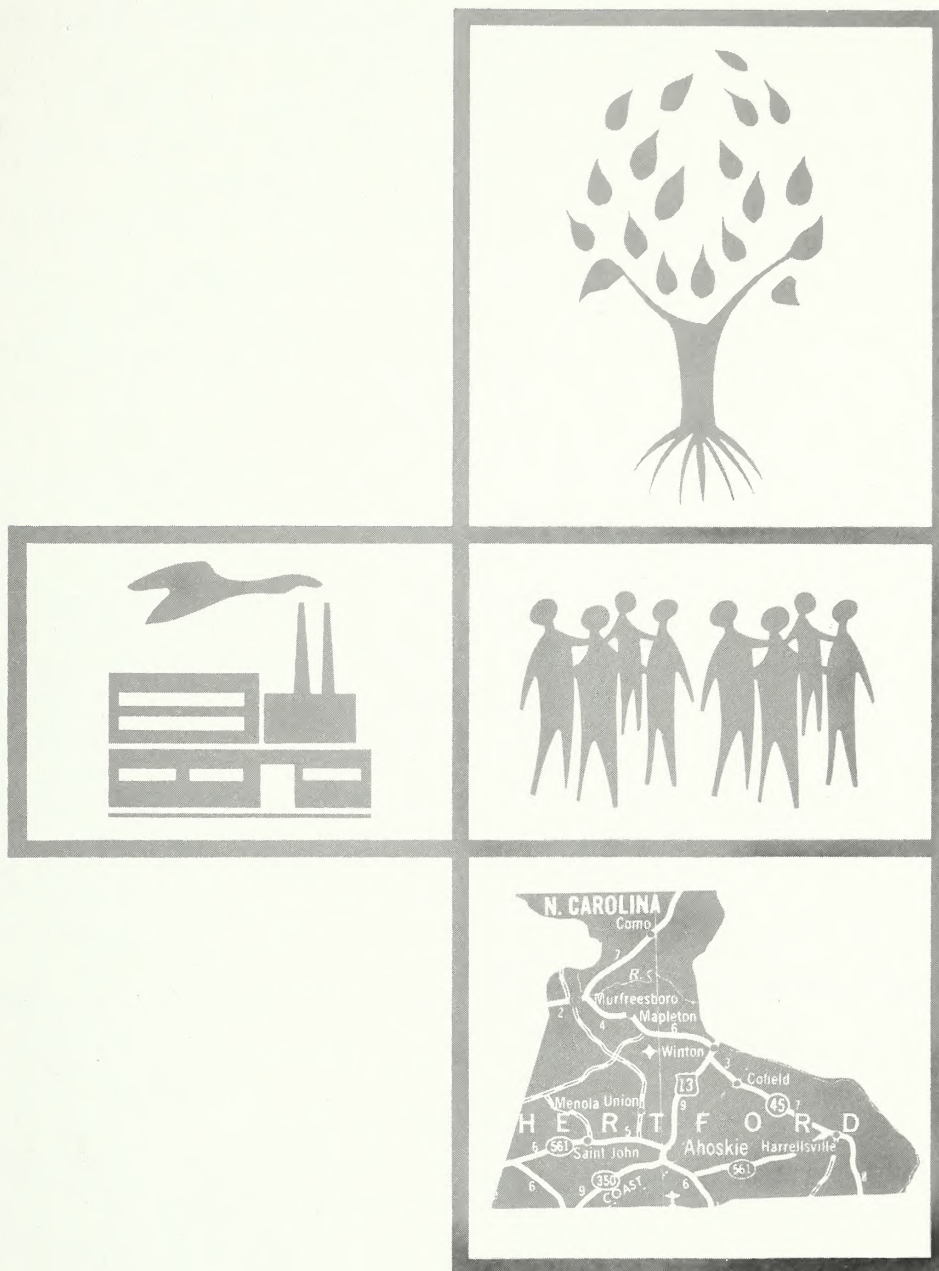
The Institute is located on a 39 acre site (formerly Odom Prison) with seven buildings, all temporary, converted prison buildings except for the shop and new classroom building. Plans call for developing a school plant on the same site with capacity to serve 500 full-time students. Temporary buildings are to be phased out. This means that large capital expenditures will be needed within the next five years. State funds can be used for grants to individual technical institutes to match local funds up to \$500,000 per institution.

Recommendations

1. That the Trustees of the Institute prepare a comprehensive master plan for future development of the Institute.

2. The recreational facilities of the Technical Institute should be coordinated with the county recreation program and with the Board of Education.

3. The Technical Institute should be fully utilized for training for law enforcement, firemen, and civil defense.



PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Hertford County is now being faced with public need and desire for new and improved services and facilities. In many areas the county is being asked to provide municipal type services such as solid waste disposal, recreation, water and sewer, etc. There is every indication that the trend to expanding the county's role in providing services will continue.

To meet this challenge, the county must explore new avenues and approaches. It must work with existing municipalities providing services at differing levels and with volunteer citizen groups serving in specific service areas. The county must serve many small communities scattered over the breadth of its limits. Expanding services and facilities will be expensive, and of course a large portion of the cost will be borne directly by the taxpayers of the county. The purpose of this program is to insure that the investment made will make maximum benefit with minimum waste and duplication. It is designed to be the framework for a continuing process for the county in meeting present and future demands for facilities and services.

This public improvement program is designed to implement the Land Development Plan of Hertford County, serving as a guide for developing a Capital Improvement Budget. The program establishes priorities for each improvement project

based on need. The Capital Improvements Budget gives the cost of each project and identifies the means of financing. This program covers a 20 year period and is an outline program; not a hard inflexible rule.

There can be many advantages in the diligent use of this public improvements program for Hertford County. These include the following:

- 1) both public officials and citizens have a guide and a means of judging and evaluating county programs and expenditures;
- 2) coordination and cooperation between units of government within the county and on regional and higher levels can be accomplished;
- 3) long range improvements can be prepared for in advance;
- 4) pressures for specific interests can be weighed against an overall program;
- 5) citizens can anticipate in advance and be prepared for Bond Issues on major improvements; and
- 6) valuable and specific lead time on specific improvements can allow additional time for specific detailed planning.

Items included in this public improvements program are those which involve a cost of over \$2,000.00, excluding recurring annual items and routine maintenance and repair.

Some examples of such improvements are as follows:

- 1) new and/or expanded physical facilities;
- 2) large scale rehabilitation or replacement of existing facilities;
- 3) major pieces of equipment which are costly and have a long service life;

- 4) engineering, planning, and/or architectural studies and surveys relative to an improvement; and
- 5) land acquisition for facilities.

Methodology

The lines of control in counties take various forms, giving various agencies within the county and state and federal agencies direct control over related facilities. In preparing this report, all of these agencies were directly consulted as well as county agencies and the county manager, who also serves as county accountant. After initial scheduling, all agencies and departments were again consulted and sent a draft. Based on responses of these, the priorities were further refined.

Much of the success of this program depends on cooperation between the county and its municipalities. The county has laid the groundwork for such cooperation through past policies of matching local funds, such as those, for instance, which the county now has set up for libraries in Murfreesboro and Ahsokie. The continuation and augmentation of this direction of cooperation is reflected in this public improvements program. Hertford County also has already demonstrated its ability to work in cooperative ventures of a regional nature involving health programs, libraries, a technical institute, and an airport. This public improvements program points toward further cooperation on a regional

basis. In some cases, special legislation will be required to achieve an efficient organization to meet the needs outlined in this program. Since the county will be taking many innovative directions and since new cooperative organization must be established, it is likely that the program may have to be adjusted periodically.

The following list of improvements and projects is based primarily on the analysis and recommendations of the Community Facilities Plan presented in the first section of this publication. Where specific reference is made in the Community Facilities Plan to the items listed in the Public Improvements Program, page numbers are given. This is done to allow the reader to refer to the background material which is given in support of the items listed in the program. The improvements are listed on an annual fiscal basis from 1970 to 1975, on a five year basis from 1975 to 1980, and on a ten year basis from 1980 to 1990.

1970-71

Ambulance:	Purchase new ambulance.	pp. 14 and 15
Fire-Rescue:	Establish facilities fund to be used to assist rural fire departments and rescue squads in financing land, buildings and major equipment.	pp. 3, 6, 15, and 16
Police:	Make alterations to county jail administration and operation to provide for 24 hour supervision.	pp. 17 and 20
Public Safety:	Institute negotiations with municipalities, agencies, and unincorporated communities to lay groundwork for a County Public Safety Authority. Prepare special legislation to be introduced during 1971 General Assembly Session, if found to be necessary.	pp. 25, 26, 27 and 28
Office Space:	Renovate old office building. Construct new office building.	pp. 42, 43, and 44
Airport:	Make Study.	pp. 45 and 46
Recreation:	Acquire county park on Chowan River.	pp. 60 and 61
Schools:	Construct two new consolidated schools.	pp. 71 and 72

1971-72

Civil Defense:	Conduct countywide emergency communications study and prepare plan.	pp. 11 and 12
Public Safety:	Present special legislation for Public Safety Authority. Form joint county-municipal public safety authority.	pp. 25, 26, 27, and 28
Office Space:	Purchase two lots adjacent to courthouse complex. Prepare Development Plan for courthouse complex.	pp. 43 and 44
Airport:	Complete zoning of airport area.	pp. 45 and 46
Solid Waste:	Supplement solid waste disposal program in Ahoskie, Murfreesboro, and Winton.	pp. 56 and 57
Recreation:	Equip county park.	pp. 60 and 61
Airport:	Secure land for an airport industrial park.	pp. 45 and 46

Public Safety:	Hire Director of Public Safety Authority.	pp. 25, 26, 27, and 28
Office:	Secure central reproduc- tion equipment.	pp. 43 and 44
Hospital:	Construct new hospital.	pp. 47 and 28
Solid Waste:	Acquire land and begin operation of two rural dis- posal sites.	pp. 56 and 57
Recreation:	Begin annual summer recre- ation program. Acquire land for parks next to schools.	pp. 60, 61, and and 72
Schools:	Construct recreational facilities for two new high schools.	pp. 60, 61, and 72

1973-74

Office Space:	Construct parking for courthouse complex.	pp. 43 and 44
Health:	Expand existing health building.	pp. 31, 32, and 33
Airport:	Construct paved, lighted, taxiway turnaround at each end of runway. Ex- pand aircraft parking area.	pp. 45 and 46
Solid Waste:	Acquire and begin oper- ation of one rural dis- posal site.	pp. 56 and 57
Recreation:	Equip two parks adjacent to new high schools.	pp. 60, 61, and 72

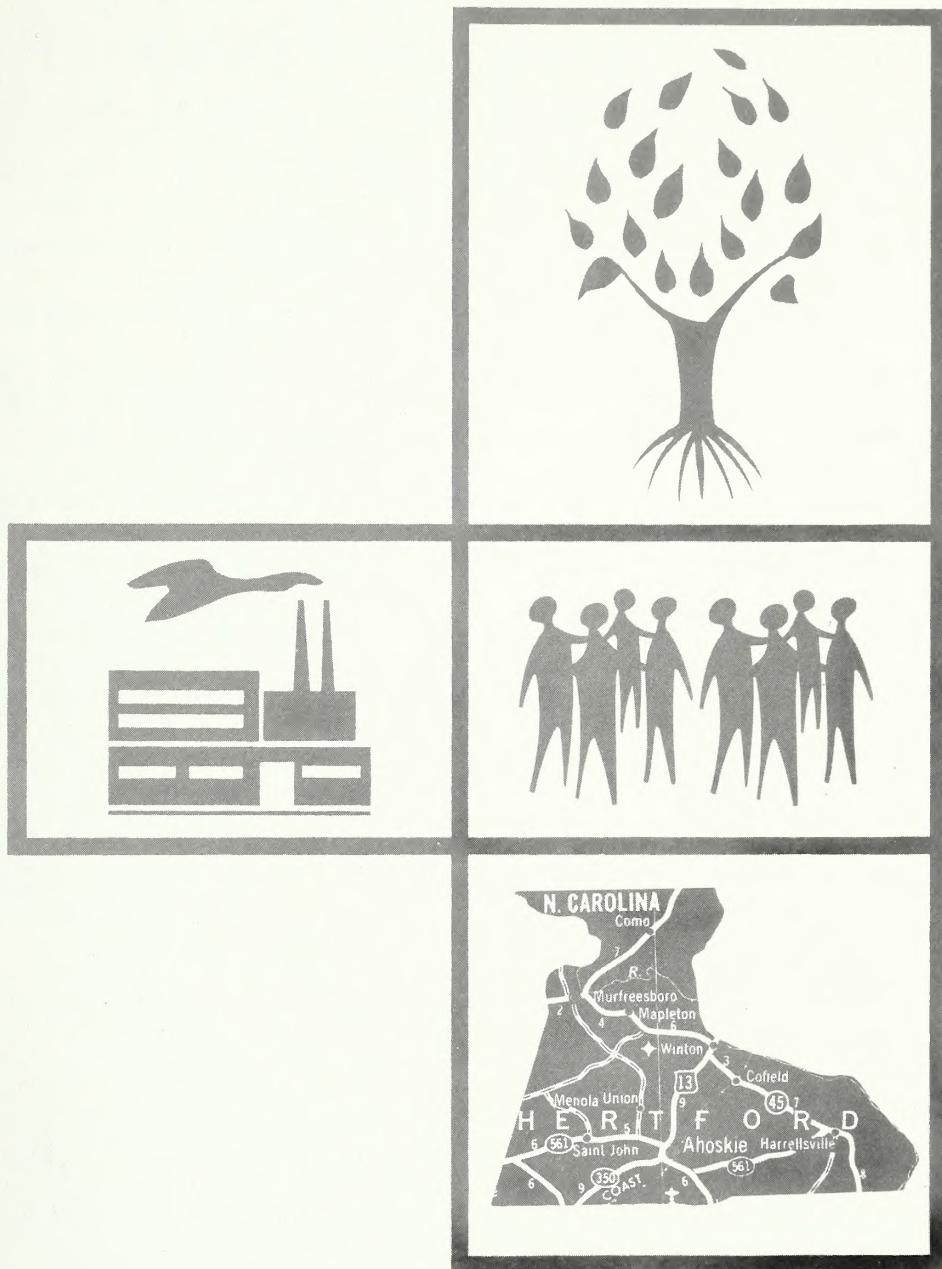
Fire-Rescue:	Combine municipal and county fire departments and rescue squads and bring under jurisdiction of the Public Safety Authority.	pp. 7, 8, 15, and 16
Public Safety:	Begin countywide emergency communications network.	pp. 26, 27, and 28
Office Space:	Landscape courthouse complex.	pp. 43 and 44
Water & Sewer:	Revise county Water and Sewer Study. Conduct ground water survey of county.	pp. 52 and 53
LIBRARY:	Begin systematic program of increasing the number of volumes in the Hertford County Public Library.	pp. 63, 65, and 66
ROANOKE-CHOWAN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE:	Construct new school plant to serve 500 full time students on same site.	pp. 75 and 76

1975-80

Public Safety:	Complete countywide communications network. Organize county patrol under Public Safety Authority. Secure modern police laboratory.	pp. 25, 26, 27 and 28
Office Space:	Construct an additional county office building.	pp. 42, 43 and 44
Hospital:	Renovate extended care facility (old hospital).	pp. 47 and 48
Airport:	Prepare new five year plan. Purchase additional property for expansion. Extend taxiways into industrial park.	pp. 45 and 46
Water and Sewer:	Establish facilities fund to extend municipal facilities to industrial sites. Establish county water and sewer agency.	pp. 52 and 53
Recreation:	Begin year round recreation program. Work to secure state park on Chowan River in Gates County. Establish matching fund for developing small county parks and playfields.	pp. 61 and 61
Library:	Institute film and record service in Ahoskie and Murfreesboro public libraries.	pp. 65 and 66
Schools:	Construct two new junior high schools on same sites as new high schools. Make alterations to existing junior high schools to convert them to elementary schools.	pp. 71 and 72

1980-1990

Public Safety:	Purchase new county non-emergency ambulance to replace old. Work to establish regional public safety authority and mutual aid agreements with adjoining counties.	pp. 14, 15, 25, 26, 27 and 28
Office Space:	Construct new combination jail and Public Safety Office Building. Revise courthouse complex development plan.	pp. 17, 25, and 43
Hospital:	Construct 75 bed addition to Roanoke Chowan Hospital.	pp. 47 and 48
Airport:	Improve airport to instrument landing capability. Develop airport industrial park.	pp. 45 and 46
Water and Sewer:	Encourage merger of individual water systems into area or county system under County Water and Sewer Agency. Work for foundation of a Tri-County water system.	pp. 52 and 53
Recreation:	Work for development of state park on Chowan River. Acquire and equip community play fields (25 to 40 acres each) in the vicinity of Como, Harrellsville, and Union. Acquire a system of strip parks along rivers, creeks, and swamps.	pp. 60 and 61
Schools:	Develop elementary school complexes at Ahoskie, Murfreesboro and Winton, using existing school buildings as best as possible. Work toward multi-county or regional school administration.	pp. 71 and 72



APPENDIX

HERTFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY FACILITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

Three hundred questionnaires were distributed to residents of the county through elementary school children, with 200 responses. The survey is somewhat biased, due to distribution, as only persons with children in elementary school were surveyed. This, of necessity, leaves out the aged, those who do not have children, and many others. The result of the survey on the following pages gives a citizen's eye view of the services and facilities of Hertford County. Most respondents rated all county services as good or fair. However, individual comments show some dissatisfaction with all county services. The majority of the respondents chose Education, Police Protection, the Hospital, and Health and Welfare as the most important county services.

HERTFORD COUNTY FACILITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Age

(a) Under 20	3
(b) 20-30 years	40
(c) 30-50 years	131
(d) over 50 years	26
2. Marital Status

(a) Married	162
(b) Single	19
(c) Divorced	4
(d) Widow	3
3. If married, how many children do you have and what are their ages?

<u>No. Children in Family</u>					
<u>No.</u>			<u>No.</u>		
1-	6	families	7-	15	families
2-	31	"	8-	8	"
3-	34	"	9-	8	"
4-	21	"	10-	6	"
5-	18	"	11-	2	"
6-	19	"	12-	5	"

<u>Ages of Children</u>			
<u>Age</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>No.</u>
0	8	12	51
1	11	13	41
2	13	14	44
3	17	15	34
4	27	16	26
5	33	17	21
6	31	18	17
7	39	19	13
8	42	20	7
9	78	21	22
10	85	over 21	60
11	44		

4. Occupations:

Shipyard	5	Painter	3
Nurse	2	Carpenter	4
Salesman	7	Secretary	3
Industry	32	U. S. Navy	1
Farmer	14	Electrician	1
Housewife	20	Telephone Co.	1
Engineer	1	Truck Driver	6
Teacher	8	Domestic	14
State	2	Retired	5
Bank	4	Other	5
Doctor	1	Pharmacist	1
Office	2	Cook	2

5. City or Township you live:

Ahoskie	70
Winton	18
Harrellsville	3
St. Johns	10
Murfreesboro	47
Como	6
Aulander	9
Menola	1
Woodland	1
Cofield	8

COUNTY LIBRARY

1. Do you know the location of the county library?

Yes	114
No	49

2. How often do you visit the county library?

Often	16
Seldom	16
Never	55

3. Are you satisfied with the collection of books?

Yes	67
No	10

4. Some of the reasons they do not visit the library:

- a. Live too far from library. (reason given most often)
- b. Library not neat.
- c. Did not know we had a county library.
- d. Poor reading ability. (used often)
- e. Don't have time. (used often)
- f. Have a lot of books of own at home.
- g. Use town and college library.
- h. Library is for white people.
- i. Should be open weekends.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

1. What school does your child attend?

a. Elementary	156 families
b. Junior High	30 families

- c. High School 77 families
- d. Technical 1 "
- e. Private

2. How far do you live from the schools?

<u>Miles</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Jr. High</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Technical</u>	<u>Private</u>
0-1	50	1	22		
1-5	73	13	34		
5-10	26	3	15	1	
10-15	7		12		

3. How does your child travel to school?

- a. Bus 129
- b. Walk 57
- c. Drives car 1
- d. Take child 16

4. Are you satisfied with the location and condition of the existing schools?

- Yes 149
- No 37

5. If not, what are you concerned about?

- a. Schools need better buildings; overcrowded, limited facilities.
- b. White students are not attending colored schools.
- c. Need more teachers aides.
- d. Trailers too crowded.
- e. No elementary physical education program, old and outdated teaching methods; under paid and overworked teachers.
- f. Need labs and teaching equipment.
- g. School zones should be geographically divided and not by "Freedom of Choice".
- h. Need more bathroom facilities in schools.
- i. Have to travel too far to get to schools.

STATE ROADS

1. Do you know of a road outside of city limits which is in need of repair?

- Yes 51
- No 121

2. Do you know location in need of new road?

Yes 3
No 22

COUNTY RECREATION

1. What are your four favorite leisure time activities?

	<u>No.</u>		<u>No.</u>
Sewing	36	Gardening	17
Play ball	25	Camping	6
Cooking	6	Hunting	10
Fishing	18	Cards	2
Swimming	19	Dancing	4
Boating	3	Tennis	4
Reading	37	Golf	6
Movies	1	Bowling	2
TV	14		

2. How do you spend your free time in order of preference?

<u>Activity</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>
a. Civic Clubs	7	12	12	14	5	18
b. Church	81	12	15	5	4	6
c. Team sports	16	9	8	6	16	17
d. Individual sports (golf, tennis)	6	5	4	8	8	25
e. Family activities	50	29	17	10	2	2
f. Indoor (reading, sewing, etc.)	69	29	17	5	8	12

3. Are you satisfied with existing recreation facilities in the county?

Yes 83
No 73

4. If not, what specific facilities or activities are not available?

- a. Parks, playgrounds, and swimming facilities
- b. Facilities for youth
- c. Need responsible supervision for summer recreation on school grounds
- d. Bowling Alley
- e. Skating Rink

- f. Tennis Courts
- g. Movies
- h. Murfreesboro has no facilities for tennis, golf, swimming, movies, recreation center for youth, and needs lights for the ball park
- i. Need building for every community
- j. There is no recreation in summer

COUNTY OFFICES

1. How often do you visit the county offices?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| a. monthly | 16 |
| b. once a year | 26 |
| c. 2-5 yearly | 23 |
| d. never | 48 |

2. What county departments do you generally visit?

- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| a. Health Department | 29 |
| b. ASCS | 10 |
| c. Education | 6 |
| d. Tax Office | 18 |
| e. Court | 1 |
| f. County Clerk | 5 |
| g. Register of Deeds | 6 |
| h. Library | 1 |
| i. County Home/farm Agent | 1 |

3. Is it easy to reach the county offices?

- | | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 81 |
| No | 22 |

4. If not, why is it difficult to get to the county offices?

- a. Too far to go
- b. No transportation

GENERAL

1. How do you dispose of garbage?

- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| a. City garbage truck | 66 |
| b. Burn | 41 |
| c. Carry to woods | 38 |
| d. Carry to city dump | 21 |

2. How often is your garbage collected?

a. Daily	9
b. Twice Weekly	68
c. Weekly	10
d. Never	9

3. How is your home protected from fire?

a. No protection	30
b. Fire Department	26
c. Insured	11

4. How far from nearest fire station?

<u>Miles</u>	<u>No.</u>
0-1	69
1-5	88
5-10	18
10-15	1

5. Please evaluate the following county servies by checking the appropriate squares. If you wish to comment, please do so in the proper space.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
a. Education	78	84	6
b. Police Protection	63	82	15
c. Library	64	68	11
d. Courts	77	66	7
e. Health & Welfare	59	65	20
f. Veterans Service	41	45	11
g. Home/Farm Agent	54	50	9
h. Building, Electrical and Plumbing Inspect.	48	50	22
i. Airports	39	48	32
j. ABC Stores	76	34	11
k. Hospital	61	50	29
l. Planning & Zoning	34	50	26
m. Recreation	18	41	67

6. Comments on county services:

- a. Too many ABC stores, too close together.
- b. Need more "Black History" in schools.
- c. Hospitals not adequate.
- d. Murfreesboro has no recreation for teenagers.
- e. Hospital should be nearer Murfreesboro since its second largest town.

- f. County Sanitation Department could use more help.
 - g. Not enough jobs.
 - h. Need more industry to hire both men and women.
 - i. Back streets need proper drainage to eliminate the breeding of insects.
 - j. School gymnasiums should be open all year.
7. Please list the four most important county services, beginning with the most important.

<u>County Service</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>
a. Police	14	14	16	9
b. Fire Department		8	1	
c. Education	27	6	16	4
d. Health & Welfare	11	15	9	9
e. Hospital	11	15	10	7
f. Courts		1	2	5
g. Recreation			2	12
h. Farm/Home Agent		2	2	2
i. Dog Warden				1
j. Ambulance	2	2		1
k. Library		1	2	2
l. Veterans Service				1
m. ABC Stores	1			

8. Please discuss any manner in which the county could be improved or services provided which are not now provided.
- a. Board of Education should be more concerned with welfare of students than with the Federal Government.
 - b. Need County dumps; have no where to put garbage.
 - c. Spend less money on welfare and politics and more for recreation for children.
 - d. Welfare cases should be investigated closely dealing with illegitimate children.
 - e. Larger and better hospitals.
 - f. Improve schools to avoid use of crowded trailers.
 - g. Clean up junked cars, old houses and old buildings that are eyesores. Get rid of slums.
 - h. Train economically disadvantaged families to make the best of handouts, food, etc.
 - i. Provide school nurse, kindergarten, swimming classes for non-swimmers.
 - j. Improve roads.
 - k. Placement of all races in positions of leadership.
 - l. More school buses.
 - m. Fix streets in colored areas like the whites.

- n. Need day care centers for working mothers.
- o. Recreation facilities for all ages.
- p. Improve hospital care for those receiving welfare.
- q. Clean up streets; too much trash.
- r. Fire department needs to be better.
- s. Better houses for Negroes.
- t. More jobs.
- u. We should make a rule saying the management of the county school board, commissioners, etc., could not stay in the hands of the same people all the time. That way we would have different ideas.
- v. Crack down on bootleggers.

